

25X1A2g

Country: Rumania

Subject: Reported Poliomyelitis at Braila and Galati

Place Acquired: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

Date Acquired: [REDACTED]

Date of Info: late June- early July 53

Source: [REDACTED]

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[Collector's Note: Following is translated from French original]

1. "A severe poliomyelitis epidemic broke out in Braila and Galati at the end of June 1953. In these two towns alone 40 children have died. And "hundreds" are sick and can't be treated because of lack of medicine.

[Collector's Note: The [REDACTED] contact here adds: 25X1A6a

'This report was confirmed officially by a radio announcement from Bucharest at 5:40 on 18 July 53. The confirmation came on the short program for the layman, Sfatul Medicului (Doctor's Advice), which has been running less than a month. The topic that day was 'Contagious Summer Diseases'. The following statement was made:

In summertime people if they are't careful- healthy people too- can catch typhoid fever, dysentery, intestinal infections and other maladies. But a virus is much more dangerous than microbes. Thus the virus of infantile paralysis (virusul paraliziei infantile), which is very resistant in water, is one of the great summer diseases. This virus can live a long time on drinking glasses, on the clothing of sick persons or of those in contact with sick persons etc. Men of science have shown us how to protect ourselves against this infantile paralysis virus. We are now in the hot season when typhoid fever, dysentery and infantile paralysis can be easily contacted. What precautions can we take, especially against infantile paralysis? First of all, the source of infection must be eliminated. At the first symptoms the sick person must be sent to hospital. That is the only way an infected person can be isolated from others, and treated in the most favorable conditions. Next the germs and viruses must be destroyed by boiling food and utensils. All flies must be destroyed. Plates, glasses and fruits should be washed with soap and water. All dirt must be gotten rid of. These constitute preventive measures against the infectious diseases of summer: typhoid, dysentery, infantile paralysis". ] "

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